criminal trial. As we have already stated that it is neither possible nor advisable to evolve a hard and fast, straight-jacket formula valid for all cases and of general application without regard to the particularities of the individual situation'.

In the case of Jang Bahadur Singh Vs. Baij Nath Tiwari, (AIR 1969 Supreme Court 30) it was held that the initiation and continuation of disciplinary proceedings in good faith do not obstruct or interfere with the course of justice in the pending court proceedings. The employee is free to move the court for an order restraining the continuance of the disciplinary proceedings. If he obtains a stay order, a willful violation of that order would of course amount to contempt of court. In the absence of stay order the disciplinary authority is free to exercise its lawful powers.

Electronic Identity Cards

3035. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have now decided to issue Electronic Identity Cards for voters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) how it will be ensured that these cards are issued to all the voters;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the issuance of present Identity Cards has not been completed and now it is stopped;

(e) the amount Government have spent for issue of Identity Cards so far; and

(f) the budget for new electronic Cards?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Election Commission of India has informed that it has not taken any decision to issue "Electronic Identity Cards" to voters. The Electors Photo Identity Cards being issued to electors under the instructions of the Election Commission contain the photo of the elector and particulars about

the elector's name, father's/mother's name, sex, age as on 1st January of the year of issue of the card and residential address as recorded in the electoral roll. The identity of the elector is established on physical production of the card. No other electronic device is necessary to establish the identity;

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) According to the Election Commission of India, the issuance of identity cards is a continuous programme and has not been stopped.

(e) The total provisional payment released by the Central Government to the States, so far, for issue of electors' photo-identity cards is Rs. 4,29,45,61,710/-.

(f) Does not arise.

Annual vacation and working days in courts

3036. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of working days in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the High Courts and the State Governments to re-examine annual vacation and working days in High Courts and Subordinate Courts;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Justice of India rejected the proposal of Government for reviewing the working days of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) According to the available information, the Supreme Court of India works for 222 days in a year. Most of the High Courts in the country have 210 working days in a year, and the number of working days of the Subordinate Courts are regulated by the concerned High Courts.

(b) Yes, Sir.